

Archival Certification and the National Park Service

Both the NPS reengineering process and the Vail Agenda have placed high priority on professionalism service-wide. A new test for archival professionalism, certification, has emerged during the last seven years. Unlike the museum profession, which accredits institutions, the archival profession has chosen to examine and certify individuals for archival proficiency. Archival certification is a way for individuals who have worked with archival and manuscript materials to affirm and demonstrate their professionalism. Here is a brief summary of the archival certification process.

What is the Academy of Certified Archivists?

Established in 1989, the Academy of Certified Archivists (ACA) is an independent non-profit organization of professional archivists from many countries. The ACA participates in the definition and advancement of international professional archival goals, ethics, practices, education, and standards.

How do I join the ACA?

To become a certified archivist it is necessary to prove your academic and professional qualifications; pass a certification examination; and apply formally to the Academy of Certified Archivists Secretariat. In order to join the ACA an archivist must demonstrate expertise in and knowledge of all aspects of archival management including selection of records, manuscripts, and collections; arrangement and description; reference services and access issues; preservation and protection; outreach and promotion; program planning and assessment; and professional, ethical, and legal responsibilities.

What are the requirements to take the certification examination?

- a master's degree that includes a minimum of 9 semester hours or 12 quarter hours of graduate archival education. (Note: this level of experience qualifies an individual to take the examination for certification. Actual certification can only be received after a full year's qualifying professional archival experience can be proved. All archival education must be

education in an accredited university that follows the Society of American Archivists Guidelines for Graduate Education Programs and the Program Standard for Archival Education: the Practicum. A course in records management or preservation management may be accepted within the 9 hours.)

or

- a minimum of 1 year of qualifying professional archival experience, plus a master's degree, either including or supplemented by at least 9 semester hours or 12 quarter hours of graduate study in archives administration,

or

- 2 years of qualifying professional experience plus a master's degree,

or

- 3 years of qualifying professional archival experience, plus a bachelor's degree.

What are the requirements for qualifying professional experience?

Archivists should have a comprehensive understanding of archival principles. A professional archivist actively exercises responsibility for one or more of the following: the acquisition, preservation, management, reference, and control of archival materials. Managing other archivists or an archival repository qualifies as professional experience if the job requires substantial knowledge of archival principles and practices. Collateral duty or part-time positions that include a mixture of archival and other duties may be counted as qualifying experience on a pro-rated bases. If half of full-time work is archival, each year on the job would count as a half-year of experience.

What is the duration of certification?

Initial certification is for five years, after which recertification is necessary.

How do I apply for the examination?

Write the Academy of Certified Archivists Secretariat, Society of American Archivists, 600 South Federal, Suite 504, Chicago, IL 60605; or call 312-922-0140 or fax 312-347-1452 for an

application form. A non-refundable fee of \$50 in the form of a check or money order payable to the Academy of Certified Archivists must accompany the application. The application is reviewed by the certification regent and two board members to evaluate the applicant's education and experience to determine if the individual is qualified to take the exam. Unsuccessful applicants will be told why they do not qualify. Decisions may be appealed.

Where and when is the examination offered?

The examination is offered on August 30, 1995, in the following cities: Washington, DC; Columbus, Ohio; Arlington, Texas; and Denver, Colorado. Requests for application forms must be

received by the ACA secretariat at least three weeks prior to the application deadline.

What happens after the examination?

Archivists who pass the test and have demonstrated the necessary education and experience must pay a certification fee (\$150) within 30 days. Annual dues of \$50 per year begin upon July 1, of the following year. Successful candidates may put the initials A.C.A. after their name and may join in the activities of the Academy.

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Kenneth P. Cannon

Blood Residue Analyses of Ancient Stone Tools Reveal Clues to Prehistoric Subsistence Patterns In Yellowstone



Since 1989, archeological fieldwork has been conducted along the shore of Yellowstone Lake by the National Park Service's Midwest Archeological Center in response to a number of construction projects, the largest being the reconstruction of the park's road system, and the rehabilitation of the Fishing Bridge developed area. Research has focused on a number of issues concerning prehistoric settlement and subsistence patterns and the reconstruction of paleoenvironmental conditions, both climatic and geomorphic (Cannon et al. 1992). Funding for these various projects has been provided by the Federal Highway Works Administration and the National Park Service.

How to obtain this information from buried contexts that are notorious for poorly preserving organic materials was a challenge. Typically, if preservation is good subsistence patterns can be reconstructed from direct evidence, such as the discarded remains of food items (e.g., processed animal bone). Poor organic preservation has plagued our work and we have had to resort to other methodologies to obtain this information (Cannon and Newman 1994). Fortunately, recent

studies have demonstrated that biochemical and immunological methods have the potential to identify species of origin of animal residues on stone tools (Hyland et al. 1990; Kooyman et al. 1992; Newman 1990) and in soils (Newman et al. 1993), which has direct implications for reconstruction of prehistoric subsistence patterns, tool use, and paleoenvironmental studies.

The technique used is a modified version of cross-over immunoelectrophoresis (CIEP) analysis, used by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Serology Laboratory (Ottawa) and the Centre of Forensic Sciences (Toronto) for identification of residues in criminal investigations (Culliford 1963; Gaensslen 1983; Royal Canadian Mounted Police 1983), and applied to archeological specimens by Dr. Margaret Newman of the University of Calgary. A full discussion of the techniques is presented in Newman and Julig (1989).

The artifacts were selected from subsurface deposits from sites in the Arnica Creek area of West Thumb on the western side of Yellowstone Lake and the Fishing Bridge peninsula on the northshore of the lake (figure 1). After discovery, each artifact was placed in a ziplock plastic bag